Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

Total Request: $124,048,000

ORF: $89,133,000
PAC: $19,515,000
OTHER: $15,400,000

The Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO), using ships and aircraft, collects data required to meet NOAA's mission and provides operational, technical, and managing support to NOAA programs through the NOAA Commissioned Corps. OMAO operates and maintains NOAA's fleet of 15 research and survey ships and 13 aircraft and assists with outsourcing for ship and aircraft support. These platforms support the missions of NOAA's five line offices and support all of the seven goals in the strategic plan. OMAO manages the NOAA Diving Program, which provides support to the largest complement of divers of any civilian federal agency.

NOAA Ship *Gordon Gunter*, a converted T-AGOS ship. The T-AGOS ship *Adventurous* is scheduled for a similar conversion in 2001.

NOAA's Gulfstream Jet is used for hurricane surveillance.

NOAA's diverse fleet of ships conducts research and gathers data relating to the oceans and the atmosphere. The ships have varied scientific capabilities and range from small coastal craft used for research in estuaries and near-shore areas to deepwater oceanographic ships that provide scientists access to the waters of the world. The ships conduct hydrographic surveys to support nautical charting requirements, oceanic and atmospheric research to determine both short- and long-term global climate changes, fisheries stock and marine mammal assessments, and monitoring of coastal habitats and pollution trends. NOAA ships also provide immediate response capabilities for unpredictable events, such as the search and location of wreckage from EgyptAir Flight 990, John F. Kennedy, Jr.'s aircraft, and TWA Flight 800.

NOAA's hydrographic ship *Rainier* & its launches conduct surveys in Alaska

NOAA's fleet of aircraft conduct research and collect data on the atmosphere, environment, and geography. The aircraft collect data throughout the United States and around the world, over open ocean, mountains, coastal wetlands, and the Arctic pack ice. NOAA aircraft conduct varied missions such as flying into hurricanes and winter storms to determine their intensity and path, air-quality research, aerial photography for shoreline surveys, marine mammal and fish surveys, and snow surveys to determine water measurements for predicting spring floods from snow melt.

The NOAA Commissioned Corps is the nation's seventh and smallest uniformed service. The officers of the NOAA Corps command NOAA's research and survey vessels, fly NOAA's "hurricane hunter" and environmental monitoring aircraft, work on mobile field survey parties, and serve in a variety of technical and management positions throughout the agency.

NOAA also meets ship- and aircraft-support needs with ships and aircraft from other sources, including the private sector and the university fleet. These platform charters help meet NOAA's needs for oceanographic and fisheries research data. NOAA also contracts directly for collection of approximately 50 percent of its hydrographic data collection needs.

The ORF funds shown above include funds for operation, maintenance, routine repair and outsourcing of aircraft and ships. The PAC funds shown above are for ship conversion and rehabilitation.

For FY 2002, NOAA requests a total of $124.0 million for OMAO, including $89.1 million in ORF, $19.5 million in PAC, and $15.4 in Other, Mandatory. The mandatory amount, which remains at the same level as in FY 2001, is for payments required as an entitlement to OMAO commissioned officers under 33 U.S.C. 853o, 33 U.S.C. 853p, and 33 U.S.C. 857-2. These funds are transferred directly to the Coast Guard each year.

Significant Adjustments to Base: OMAO's base had a net increase of $63.0 million due to restoration of the rescission and receipt of adjustments to base for OMAO programs, including a technical

the rescission and receipt of adjustments to base for OMAO programs, including a technical adjustment of $62.0 million to transfer Acquisition of Data from the NOS, NMFS, and OAR to OMAO. The transfer will allow for the management of the fleet operations as a NOAA-wide asset. This increase also will fund the FY 2002 pay raise and will provide inflationary increases for certain non-labor activities including service contracts.

Detailed Program Increases by Sub-Activity

Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF)

Aircraft Services $14.2 million

The total request of $14.2 million for Aircraft Services represents an increase of $2.4 million above the FY 2001 Enacted level. This continued investment will allow Aircraft Services, which operates a fleet of 13 NOAA aircraft, to complete a second flight crew for the G-IV aircraft and to add 300 additional flight hours and associated dropwindsondes for data collection for Hurricane & Severe Winter Storm Prediction ($888,000) and for Ocean Winds Research ($600,000). The completion of the second flight crew for the G-IV will allow for 24-hour hurricane or winter storm coverage needed to increase lead time for hurricane evacuations and reductions in unnecessary warnings. The additional flight hours will allow improved winter storm prediction. The increase for flight hours for Ocean Winds Research will provide data to calibrate satellite wind instruments.. This is critical for planning for future deployment of satellite sensors.

Marine Services $74.9 million

The total request of $74.9 million for Marine Services, largely for data acquisition, represents an increase of $64.0 million above the FY 2001 Enacted level. This continued investment will allow the consolidation of funds for marine services under OMAO. The funds previously were transferred to OMAO on an annual basis from NOS, NMFS, OAR, and Executive Direction and Administration. This consolidation will promote a more efficient and flexible utilization of resources through an enhanced centralized management of NOAA's vessels operations. Funds for Data Acquisition have been moved to OMAO permanently, since they provide for NOAA-wide assets.

Marine Services operates a fleet of 15 NOAA vessels capable of safely collecting hydrographic and coastal assessment data, conducting fishery independent scientific and survey operations, and conducting sustained oceanographic and atmospheric data collection in various marine environments and provides funds for outsourcing to meet many data-collection requirements. The request includes an increase of $1 million to provide days-at-sea, primarily through charter vessels, to support research in the Gulf of Mexico concerning the interactions of the Mississippi River plume, nutrient loading, and resulting hypoxia of Gulf fisheries. The funding also will maintain or increase day-at-sea levels supporting other NOAA programs, including the science programs in NOS and the sanctuary program. In addition, an increase of $855,000 will be used for both the ADVENTUROUS' operating differential and to add days-at-sea on fisheries research vessels. The ADVENTUROUS will replace the TOWNSEND CROMWELL and is a

larger and more capable vessel that will carry more scientists to complete more research on a daily basis.

Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction (PAC)

Fleet Replacement $19.5 million

The total request of $19.5 million for OMAO's fleet replacement represents a decrease of $242,000 million below the FY 2001 Enacted level. This continued investment will allow the remaining funds to be used for the following items:

ADVENTUROUS Refurbishment $4.2 million

The total request of $4.2 million for the ADVENTUROUS represents a decrease of $3.8 million below the FY 2001 Enacted level. Funding in the amount of $8.0 million was provided in FY 2001 to begin the conversion of the ADVENTUROUS to a fisheries research vessel to replace the aging TOWNSEND CROMWELL home-ported in Honolulu, Hawaii. This continued investment will allow OMAO to complete the conversion and upgrade of the vessel.

ALBATROSS IV Repairs $4.0 million

NOAA requests a total of $4.0 million for repairs to the NOAA ship, the ALBATROSS IV. This investment will allow OMAO to extend the ship's useful life until a new FRV is delivered to the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), located in Woods Hole, MA. The ALBATROSS IV must be operated beyond FY 2006 to protect the integrity of long-term surveys of fish stock.

FAIRWEATHER Refurbishment $9.5 million

The total request of $9.5 million for the FAIRWEATHER represents an increase of $2.7 million above the FY 2001 Enacted level. This continued investment will allow OMAO to complete the refurbishment of the NOAA ship. The amount of $6.8 million was appropriated in FY 2001 to begin this effort, and a total of $9.5 million will be needed in FY 2002 in order to complete the project. The refurbishment of the FAIRWEATHER, with its home-port in Alaska, will provide a platform which will allow significant progress to be made in reducing the critical backlog of hydrographic surveys.

GORDON GUNTER Upgrade $1.8 million

NOAA requests a total of $1.8 million for the upgrade of the NOAA ship, the GORDON GUNTER. This investment will allow OMAO to fully meet modern safety standards and provide a more capable platform to support fisheries research and stock assessment projects. The upgrade will include modifications to an engine room bulkhead that will enable the ship to meet modern safety standards for one-compartment damage stability. This will allow a compartment to be fully flooded and the ship to

remain afloat with stability. The increase would also provide positioning and instrumentation upgrades.

Naval Surplus Vessel for Coastal Research (YTT)

NOAA is not requesting any funding for the YTT in FY 2002, which represents a decrease of $5.0 million below the FY 2001 Enacted level. Funding for the partial conversion of the YTT was provided in FY 2001. This phase has been completed, allowing the vessel to be used for some coastal research.

Detailed information regarding adjustments to base, program reductions, and terminations are shown in Section 4: Supplementary Information.